International Relations · GS - II

Examine the growing role of third-party mediation in contemporary geopolitical conflicts. What opportunities and limitations does China's proposed role in facilitating Russia–Ukraine negotiations illustrate?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Conflict mediation, multipolarity, strategic autonomy, neutrality, national interests, territorial sovereignty, great-power diplomacy, ceasefire negotiations, international legitimacy, enforcement mechanisms.

Model Answer

Introduction

Third-party mediation has become an important instrument of contemporary diplomacy, particularly in conflicts involving major powers. China's offer to host renewed Russia–Ukraine negotiations illustrates the increasing diplomatic role of emerging powers.

Opportunities of Third-Party Mediation

- **Diplomatic engagement:** Provides a neutral platform for communication when direct negotiations are difficult.
- **Multipolar diplomacy:** Enables countries beyond traditional Western institutions to contribute to conflict resolution.

- **De-escalation:** Creates opportunities for ceasefires, prisoner exchanges and humanitarian arrangements.
- **Strategic dialogue:** Facilitates discussion on territorial disputes, security guarantees and regional stability.

Limitations and Challenges

- **Perceived neutrality:** A mediator's strategic and economic relationships with conflicting parties may affect its credibility.
- **Conflicting objectives:** Fundamental disagreements over territorial sovereignty and security arrangements can obstruct negotiations.
- **Enforcement deficit:** A mediator may facilitate an agreement but cannot automatically ensure compliance.
- **Domestic constraints:** Political pressures within the negotiating countries can limit compromise.

Way Forward

Effective mediation requires inclusive negotiations, respect for international law, credible security arrangements and independent mechanisms to monitor implementation.

Conclusion

Third-party mediation can create diplomatic opportunities, but sustainable peace requires political commitment from the conflicting parties. China's proposed role also reflects the expanding importance of multipolar diplomacy in global conflict management.

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